

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BFIS, BEXP, EC

SUBJECT: GOE CABINET APPROVES FISHING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR 1976-7

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1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT GOE CABINET APPROVED ON JULY 29
A FISHING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR 1976-77 CALLING FOR INVEST-
MENT OF UD\$56 MILLION.

2. PROGRAM APPEARS TO BE FAIRLY COMPREHENSIVE ACCORDING TO PRESS,
FOLLOWING AREAS WILL BE EMPHASIZED: (A) DEVELOPMENT OF GOE
ADMINISTRATIVE CAPABILITY IN THE FISHING SECTOR; (B) TECHNICAL
AND BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH; (C) DEVELOPMENT OF NECESSARY INFRA-
STRUCTURE (PORTS, COLD STORAGE FACILITIES, ETC.); (D) DEVELOP-
MENT OF A SHIPBUILDING AND REPAIR INDUSTRY; (E) EXPANSION OF
ECUADOREAN FISHING ACTIVITY FARTHER FROM SHORE, ALLOWING THE
CAPTURE OF NEW SPECIES; (F) ESTABLISHMENT OF MARKET-
ING AND PRICING POLICY THAT WILL INCREASE BOTH DOMESTIC
CONSUMPTION AND EXPORTS; AND (G) STRENGTHENING FISHING COM-
MUNITY BY PROVIDING TRAINING, CREDIT, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO
FISHERMEN.

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3. STATED GOALS OF THE PROGRAM ARE TO (A) DOUBLE SEA-FOOD CATCH (TO 310,000 METRIC TONS BY 1977), (B) INCREASE ANNUAL PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION OF SEA FOOD IN ECUADOR FROM CURRENT LEVEL OF 2.86 TO 14.3 POUNDS, AND (C) INCREASE EMPLOYMENT IN THE FISHING INDUSTRY FROM 11,000 TO 15,000.

4. PROGRAM CALLS FOR INVESTMENT IN 1976 OF US\$10.6 MILLION BY PUBLIC SECTOR AND US\$14.8 MILLION BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR; AND, IN 1977, OF US\$7.2 MILLION AND US\$24 MILLION RESPECTIVELY.

5. OVER A FIVE RPT FIVE-YEAR PERIOD, GOE PLANS TO SPEND FOLLOWING AMOUNTS ON THE FISHING SECTOR: (A) US\$40 MILLION TO INCREASE THE FISHING FLEET BY 76 LARGE VESSELS AND 260 SMALLER VESSELS; (B) US\$26 MILLION TO DEVELOP EXTRACTIVE AND MANUFACTURING FACILITIES; (C) US\$22 MILLION TO DEVELOP FISHING PORTS; AND (D) US\$4 MILLION FOR RESEARCH AND TRAINING.

6. COMMENT. (BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) DESPITE FACT THAT CURRENT REGIME IS UNQUESTIONABLY COMMITTED TO DEVELOPMENT OF ECUADOR'S IMPORTANT FISHING INDUSTRY, THIS PROGRAM APPEARS TO BE UNREALISTICALLY AMBITIOUS. IT IS ESPECIALLY NOTEWORTHY THAT GOE PLAN PLACES HEAVY INVESTMENT BURDEN (MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS OF THE REQUIRED 1976-77 INVESTMENT) ON PRIVATE SECTOR. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE PRIVATE SECTOR CAN OR WILL SUPPLY THIS MAGNITUDE OF INVESTMENT. (END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)
BREWSTER

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